March 31, 2006

Police Remind Residents Its Unlawful to Fire Pellet Guns in Town

Due to the recent popularity of Air Soft and BB guns, the <u>Wake Forest Police Department</u> is attempting to educate Wake Forest residents about the dangers associated with these weapons.

The police department has responded recently to several calls concerning individuals possessing and/or firing Air Soft and BB guns in town. A majority of the individuals found in possession of these weapons are juveniles who fired the guns at other individuals and property.

The Police Department is reminding residents that firing Air Soft and BB guns within the town limits is a violation of Town Ordinance Section 20-66 and section 20-67. Although it is not unlawful to own these weapons, anyone who is observed by police to be in possession of an Air Soft or BB gun should be prepared to have them inspected. The similar appearance of Air Soft/BB guns with real firearms makes it difficult for police officers to differentiate between the two types of weapons (see pictures below) without examining them by hand. Police confiscated the BB guns pictured on the right over the past several weeks. Notice the similarity to firearms.





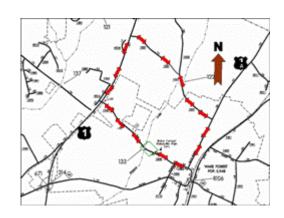
Smith Creek Greenway Extension Set to Begin

Over the next four months, the Wake Forest Parks & Recreation Department will be working to extend the greenway along the Smith Creek corridor. The new addition will measure 10 feet in width and extend from the Smith Creek Soccer Center in the Heritage subdivision to the bridge at Rogers Road (beside Hope Lutheran Church). The 1500-linear foot trail will link with the current trail at the soccer center and continue south to Rogers Road. The extension, which will follow the Town's sewer easement, will lengthen the park trail to approximately one-half mile. A 60-foot long bridge crossing will be constructed to complete the new link.

Smith Creek is the number one priority in the Town's "Open Space and Greenway Master Plan." The seven-mile north/south corridor extends from the Neuse River to the Franklin County line. Also along this corridor, the Town has a paved ¾ mile section of trail just off Burlington Mills Road behind the Moss Creek/Caddell Woods subdivisions.

Stadium Drive Bridge Closing April 3 - August 24

The North Carolina Department of Transportation has awarded a contract to replace the bridge carrying Stadium Drive over Richland Creek. Consequently, the NCDOT reports that Stadium Drive will be closed from April 3 to August 24 in the vicinity of the bridge to facilitate the demolition of the existing



bridge and the construction of a new three-lane bridge with sidewalk.

Traffic will be detoured according to the following NCDOT guidelines: Motorists traveling on US 1 wanting to use Stadium Drive (SR 1930) to get to Wake Forest should use the signed detour route as follows: from the intersection of Stadium Drive (SR 1930) and US 1 travel North on US 1 for 1.1 miles to the intersection of Harris Road (SR 1931). Turn Right onto Harris Road (SR 1931) and travel 1.4 miles to the intersection of US 1A/North Main Street. Turn Right onto US1A/North Main Street and travel 0.9 miles to the intersection of North Avenue turn Right onto North Avenue, which will become Stadium Drive (SR1930). Motorist wanting to use Stadium Drive (SR 1930) from Wake Forest to get to US 1 should use the signed detour as follows: Take Stadium Drive South East, which will become North Avenue to the Intersection of US1A/North Main Street. Turn Left onto US1A/North Main Street and travel 0.9 miles to the intersection of Harris Road (SR 1931). Turn Left onto Harris Road (SR 1931) and travel 1.4 miles to the intersection of US 1. Turn left and travel south on US 1 for 1.1 miles in order to get back to Stadium Drive (SR 1930).

To view a map of the detour route, click **HERE**.

North Allen Road Sidewalk Project Completed

Pedestrians in northeast Wake Forest, and particularly those who stroll along North Allen Road, will find it easier and safer to get around now that the North Allen Road sidewalk project has been completed. The project was proposed in the late 1990s but encountered delays due to a lack of funding. A partnership between the Town of Wake Forest, the NCDOT, and the Wake County Housing and Community Revitalization resulted in the allocation of funds and a contract was awarded in



early 2005. The long-awaited project officially got underway in the fall of 2005.

In addition to the construction of the walkway, which extends along North Allen Road from Juniper Avenue to the intersection of Wait Avenue (NC 98), the project included the widening and resurfacing of North Allen Road, as well as the addition of new curb and gutter. The sidewalk is expected to improve pedestrian safety by separating pedestrian traffic from vehicular traffic. It will also serve as a link to other sidewalks in the northeastern part of town by connecting with the Juniper Avenue sidewalk which extends along Juniper past Allen Road to Ailey Young Park.

Planning Director <u>Chip Russell</u> says future plans call for the construction of a sidewalk from North White Street from East Juniper north to <u>Flaherty Park</u>.

Truck Detour Map Unveiled for US 1A / NC 98 Roundabout

Due to construction of the roundabout at US 1A and NC 98, trucks will be detoured. Click **HERE** for a map showing the detour route. Anyone with questions should contact **Holly Spring** at (919) 554-3158.

New Drop Box in Town Hall

If you're tired of standing in line to pay your utility bill, then our new drop box in Town Hall is designed just for you.

Utility customers who wish to pay their bill and have it processed that day can now deposit their payment in a convenient, secure drop box. Located on the receptionist's desk just inside the front door of Town Hall, the drop box is the perfect remedy for customers who are paying by check and do not need a receipt. Cash and money orders are not accepted, so customers opting to utilize the drop box must pay with a check only.



Anyone with questions should contact <u>Drew Brown</u>, customer service supervisor, at (919) 554-6107.

Public Hearing Set for April 18 on 2006-07 Budget

The Town of Wake Forest is developing its Fiscal Year 2006-07 Budget. The budget is a comprehensive listing of anticipated revenues and proposed expenditures for the fiscal year. It is also the primary instrument for monitoring and controlling local spending and is intended to monitor the quality of work performed by local government personnel.

As part of <u>Wake Forest's budget process</u>, the Town's management team is analyzing current service levels, determining what level of service is needed, and figuring the costs of providing those services to Wake Forest residents. During the April 18 <u>Board of Commissioners</u> meeting, the Town will host a public hearing to receive input on budget needs. <u>Wake Forest residents are urged to attend the meeting and provide input in this important process</u>.

Easter Egg Hunt Set for April 8

The Town's Annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 8. Children between the ages of 7 and 11 will hunt for eggs at Miller Park beginning at 2 p.m. Children between the ages of 2 and 6 will hunt at Holding Park starting at 3 p.m.

Event organizers will hide over 5,000 Easter eggs. Kids who discover the rare golden eggs will receive a special prize. For more information, call (919) 554-6100.

March 24, 2006

Community Leadership Summit Draws Impressive Turnout

Population growth and development, community identity, race relations, resource management, transportation access, and public school reassignment were among the topics discussed at last night's Community Leadership Summit hosted by the Human Relations Council.

Over 50 townspeople, as well as officials and representatives from area schools, churches, civic clubs and community organizations participated in the event held at the Wake Forest Community House.

HRC officials say they plan to prepare a report of the symposium's findings, which will be made public in the coming weeks.

Wake Forest Pedestrian Plan Workshop

Community residents, Greenways Inc. consultants, and Wake Forest staff met in a public meeting on March 16 to discuss progress on the Wake Forest Pedestrian Plan. The Plan, funded in part by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, is being developed to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses in existing pedestrian networks and to develop policies to guide the location, design and timing of pedestrian facilities in the future. Brian Bergeler from Greenways Inc. moderated a Power Point presentation showing some of the good, the bad and the ugly Wake Forest has to offer pedestrians. Brian illustrated some quick maintenance fixes in contrast to long term construction projects. Among the good things Brian pointed out included an interconnected downtown, an impressive plan for obtaining and building greenways and pedestrian culverts under the new NC 98 Bypass. Some of the bad: ADA obstacles in high foot traffic areas, gaps in the system, dangerous intersections and Capital Boulevard.

Local residents nibbled on snacks and pored over maps, using markers to add their own commentary making this a "hands on" opportunity to build the Pedestrian Plan into a document that can result in the type of pedestrian system the community wants. Well fed and good-natured people discussed some local policies regarding sidewalk construction. Currently, most sidewalks are installed as property is developed, one lot at a time. This policy has generated a great deal of frustration on the part of the community. Town Planner Ann Ayers offered an explanation of the local policy structure, but also compared this method of sidewalk construction to building the Cadillac Johnny Cash refers to in the song, "One Piece at a Time." In the recording, Cash croons about an auto worker who pilfers Cadillac parts over the years and eventually constructs a very strange looking hodge-podge auto of his own.

Some in the audience expressed a desire for sidewalk installation to coincide with street construction in hopes of a more efficient design and to accommodate walkers as well as drivers.

Others indicated that the sidewalks would be damaged by construction activity if they are installed prior to development. Others noted that where a driveway is located, the base under the driveway needs to be more substantial, so wide sidewalk sections would need to be torn out and replaced to handle the additional weight of vehicles, adding to the cost of construction. The consultants will be making design recommendations in the near future to ameliorate the differences.

Participants at the meeting spoke loudly and clearly indicating a preference for filling gaps as soon as possible to link subdivisions with nearby amenities and services. Residents want to find a way to prevent such gaps in the future.

Interested citizens can still make their wishes known by completing a "Wanted" list describing their "Top 10 Most Wanted Pedestrian Improvements for Wake Forest," review documents or view the Power Point Presentation at the Greenways Inc. website. Anyone with comments, concerns or questions should contact contact Ann Ayers at (919) 570-7000.

Stadium Drive Bridge Closing - April 1 through August 28

The NCDOT has awarded a contract to replace the bridge carrying Stadium Drive over Richland Creek. Consequently, Stadium Drive will be closed from April 1 to August 28 in the vicinity of the bridge to facilitate the demolition of the existing bridge and the construction of a new three lane bridge with sidewalk. Traffic will be detoured per NCDOT guidelines. A map of the detour will be available for download shortly.

Wake Forest Parks & Recreation Summer Brochure Coming Soon

The Summer 2006 Parks & Recreation brochure will be mailed to all of the Town's residential utility customers in the next few days. The <u>Parks and Recreation Department</u> has expanded its recreational programming and leisure opportunities and offers a variety of activities for individuals of all ages and interests, including <u>youth</u> and <u>adult</u> athletics, as well as <u>cultural programs</u>. The brochure will also be available for download in the next week or two. Anyone with questions concerning Parks & Rec programs should call (919) 554-6180.

Wake Forest College: A Celebration of Memories

Fifty years ago this summer, Wake Forest College packed up chemistry lab equipment, library books, sports trophies and memories to travel 110 miles west to a new home in Winston-Salem. Beginning March 31st, the black and gold will once again fly around Wake Forest as alumni, current students and townspeople gather on the old campus to celebrate memories of the College and recollections of the move.

The two-day celebration begins Friday, March 31 and includes golf at Wake Forest Golf Club, a reception at Brigs Restaurant, and tours of the College Birthplace Museum. The future annex of the museum will be staked off so visitors can visualize the 10,000 square foot structure for which fundraising has begun. The event concludes with convocation at Binkley Chapel led by Dr. Ed Wilson and new WFU President Nathan Hatch. The public is invited to attend the ceremony at

Binkley Chapel where Dr. Hatch will address the old campus alumni for the first time since his inauguration in October 2005. Alumni, their families, friends, area communities and neighbors are all welcome.

For more information, call (919) 556-2911. To view a complete schedule of events, click HERE.

Jackie Robinson: A Game Apart

Mike Wiley brings his one-man show, Jackie Robinson: A Game Apart, to the DuBois Campus auditorium on Thursday, April 6, at 6:30 p.m. This gripping drama lifts the shadow of African-American segregated athletics from the dark depths of yesteryear into the daylight of a new sports millennium. Wiley, who holds a M.F.A. in acting from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and a B.A. from Catawba College of Salisbury, has performed his one-person plays for hundreds of schools, colleges and arts centers around the country and has also worked with outstanding production companies such as Theatre IV, Playmakers Repertory, and the Shenandoah Shakespeare Express.

Sponsored by the <u>Parks and Recreation Department</u> and United Arts of Raleigh and Wake County, Jackie Robinson: A Game Apart lasts 45 - 50 minutes and is open free to the public. All ages are welcome. For more information, contact <u>Susan Simpson</u> at (919) 554-6182.

March 17, 2006

Arbor Day Celebration

If you missed yesterday's Arbor Day Celebration, then you missed a real treat. Just as they do ever year, <u>Lisa Potts</u>, town planner, and the Urban Forestry Board put on quite a show at the Community House.

One of the many things I love about Wake Forest is the incredible community spirit so often demonstrated by the town's residents. Yesterday's Arbor Day celebration presented another opportunity for locals to show their support for the our Urban Forestry program - and they didn't disappoint. Altogether, well over 150 people attended the ceremony, including first and second graders from Wake Forest Elementary School and many of their parents, who were on hand to watch what can only be described as a most entertaining musical routine.

Mayor Vivian Jones kicked off the festivities by welcoming everyone in attendance and providing a brief history of Arbor Day. She also introduced Brian Bockhahm, a Park Ranger with the NC Division of Parks & Recreation, who was the day's featured speaker. Bockham talked about his responsibilities as a park ranger, but focused on the importance of trees not only to people, but especially to wildlife. As part of his presentation, he brought along several stuffed animals, which proved to be a favorite for both the kids and their parents.

Following Bockham's address, a representative from the NC Division of Resources presented the mayor with the Tree City USA and Growth Awards.

Urban Forestry Board Chair Hughen Nourse then presented the Arbor Day Poster Contest awards to Liam Finn (Best Picture); Brett Zeck (Most Creative); and Elise King (Honorable Mention). Potts presented each child with a framed certificate and a \$50 US Savings Bond. Finn received a special honor as his picture served as the illustration on this year's Arbor Day T-shirts.

Next, Nourse gave out the Green Medal Awards to this year's winners: Pete Jordan (Corporate Green Medal), Wake Forest Woman's Club (Civic Green Medal), and Hughen Nourse and Liz Ford (Community Forrester Green Medals).

The morning's highlight occurred next when the first graders from Wake Forest Elementary School took the floor to perform several musical numbers. Many included props such as kazoos, sunglasses, and dance steps. Talk about show stoppers! By the time they finished, the cheering audience left little doubt as to who stole the show on this morning!

Roundabout Work Underway

The junction of US1A and NC98 Business is in the process of being converted to a roundabout or circular intersection. Motorists will notice changes over the next several weeks as workers progress with construction. Work on the roundabout and its approaches is expected to be completed by May 2006.

Many people are unfamiliar with roundabouts and questioned their benefits.

A roundabout is a form of intersection design and control that accommodates traffic flow in one direction around a central island, operates with yield control at the entry points, and gives priority to vehicles within the roundabout. Studies have shown that modern roundabouts restrict speeds to about 15 mph for minor roadways and about 25 mph for major roadways. Slower speeds require smaller gaps in the circulating traffic for vehicles trying to enter the roundabout. This reduces delays, shortens queue lengths and reduces the threat of serious accidents. All modern roundabouts are governed by the "yield-at-entry" rule that requires all vehicles entering the roundabout to yield to traffic circulating within the roundabout. This allows the roundabout to maintain traffic flow even with high traffic volumes.

In addition, roundabouts are safer than traffic signals and able to handle large volumes of traffic more successfully. On the topic of safety, several key issues have roundabouts outperforming traffic signal controlled intersections. A standard 4-way intersection has 32 potential collision points when you account for all the turning movements from each of the roadway approaches. Roundabout have only 8 potential conflict points. Next, the curving nature of the roundabout approaches and inner circular island require travel speeds to be low to maneuver through the intersection whereas "green time" of a traffic signal can produce high travel speeds when the roadways are not congested. Finally, the center island of a roundabout eliminates the possibility of head on collisions. A recent study published by the "Insurance Institute for Highway Safety" found

that intersections controlled by roundabouts saw a 39% decline in accidents, accidents resulting in injuries fell 76%, and accidents resulting in death or incapacitating injury fell by 90%.

Roundabouts are able to handle higher traffic volumes than traffic signals as continuous traffic flow is possible at a roundabout. The only delay in entering a roundabout is the wait for a gap in the circulating traffic. As speeds are low, about 15 mph, only a small gap is necessary to move into the roundabout flow. In contrast, the sole purpose of a traffic signal is to allocate time between competing traffic streams. As time is taken from one stream, it experiences a long delay in flow. With high volume roadways, the delay brought about by the traffic signal leads to long traffic queues.

Stadium Drive Bridge Closing - April 1 through August 28

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Reminder - Public Hearing on Capital Improvement Plan Update

A public hearing is scheduled during Tuesday night's Board of Commissioners meeting to receive comments on the proposed FY 2006-2011 CIP Update. The updated CIP was presented to the Board for consideration on February 21. Pending Board approval, the updated document will provide staff with direction in the development of a "financing plan" during the preparation of the FY 2006-2007 Annual Budget. Public input in this process is welcome and a copy of the updated CIP is available for review in the Town Clerk's office.

Reminder - Community Summit Set for March 23

Population growth and development, resource management, transportation access, and public school reassignment are a few of the many challenges facing Town leaders and residents. On Thursday, March 23, the Human Relations Council (HRC) will host a Community Leadership Summit at the Wake Forest Community House from 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm. The symposium will present six critical themes and action plans assessed by the School of Public Health at UNC-Chapel Hill.

The HRC has invited officials and representatives from area schools, churches, civic clubs and community organizations to participate. Among the issues that will be discussed are transportation, growth and development, community identity, race relations, class differences, and education.

We hope the event will serve as an opportunity for leaders and residents to network, exchange ideas and suggest improvements that will lead to better communication, increased understanding, and greater cooperation. We also hope it will stimulate a renewed commitment – on everyone's part - to improve the welfare and future of Wake Forest.

For more information about the Community Leadership Summit, contact Francis Shapiro at (919) 562-7015.

March 10, 2006

Public Hearing on CIP Update Set for Tuesday Night

A <u>public hearing</u> is scheduled during the Tuesday, March 21 <u>Board of Commissioners</u> meeting to receive comments on the proposed FY 2006-2011 CIP Update. The updated <u>Capital Improvement Plan</u> was presented to the Board for consideration on February 21. Pending Board approval, the updated document will provide staff with direction in the development of a "financing plan" during the preparation of the FY 2006-2007 Annual Budget. Public input in this process is welcome and a copy of the updated CIP is available for review in the Town Clerk's office. To view a 2006-07 CIP funding level summary, click <u>HERE</u>.

Green Medal Award Winners Announced

The Wake Forest Urban Forestry Board recently <u>announced</u> the following 2006 Green Medal Award winners:

Wake Forest Woman's Club - Civic Green Medal Award | Jordan Tree Care - Corporate Green Medal Award Hughen Nourse and Liz Ford (co-winners) - Community Forester Award

Green Medal Awards recognize individuals, civics clubs and businesses who work to promote the town's urban forest. This year's recipients will be honored during Wake Forest's 28th Annual <u>Arbor Day celebration</u> on March 16. The event is scheduled to get underway at 10 a.m. at the Wake Forest Community House.

In addition to the presentation of the Green Medal Awards, the Town will accept its 27th consecutive Tree City USA Award and its 13th consecutive Growth Award.

For more information about Arbor Day or the Green Medal Awards, contact <u>Lisa Potts</u> at (919) 554-6143.

Stadium Drive Bridge Closing - April 1 through August 28

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The HRC has invited officials and representatives from area schools, churches, civic clubs and community organizations to participate. Among the issues that will be discussed are transportation, growth and development, community identity, race relations, class differences, and education.

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For more information about the Community Leadership Summit, contact Francis Shapiro at (919) 562-7015. To view the Town of Wake Forest Action-Oriented Community Diagnosis, click HERE. The AOCD collects, analyzes and summarizes the perspectives of community members and service providers on the community's existing resources, assets, and needs. The March 23 forum is the culmination of an intensive process whereby area stakeholders engage in dialog about community assets and needs, and collaborate on action steps to improve current situations.

Reminder - US 1 Corridor Study Public Meeting

Two reasons for improving the US 1 corridor are often cited: 1) to meet growing travel demand; and 2) improve safety. Current travel demand on the route meets or exceeds its capacity for the section of US 1 south of US 1A (South Main Street) in Wake County. The purpose of the US 1 Corridor Study is to develop an integrated transportation plan that provides for reasonable mobility along the US 1 Corridor while maintaining a high quality environment for the surrounding communities by providing for well-planned and sustainable growth along this corridor.

The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's (Capital Area MPO) Public Involvement Program for the US 1 Corridor Study is designed to increase public participation in the transportation planning process and to identify the most important issues regarding the project from the perspective of local communities. The Capital Area MPO will host a public meeting this Tuesday, March 14, from 3-7 p.m. at The Living Word Family Church, located on 10520 Star Road, Wake Forest. The public will have an opportunity to learn about the project and provide input into the planning process for the corridor. For more information, contact Chip Russell, Wake Forest planning director, or visit www.ncdot.org/~us1study.

Reminder - Pedestrian Plan Workshop Scheduled

The Town is working on developing a comprehensive Pedestrian Plan. A public workshop has been scheduled for Thursday, March 16 from 4 - 7 p.m. at Town Hall. The public is encouraged

to attend and offer their input into this important process. For more information, contact <u>Ann</u> <u>Ayers</u> at (919) 570-7999.

March 3, 2006

If you're a regular visitor to this site, then you know I took a breather from this space last week. Well, here it's already March, and there's plenty going on around town that I'm anxious to share with you. Much has happened over these last few weeks, so if you like keeping up with goings-on in Wake Forest, then you've come to the right place.

Community Summit Set for March 23

Population growth and development, resource management, transportation access, and public school reassignment are a few of the many challenges facing Town leaders and residents. On Thursday, March 23, the <u>Human Relations Council (HRC)</u> will host a <u>Community Leadership Summit</u> at the Wake Forest Community House from 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 pm. The symposium will present six critical themes and action plans assessed by the School of Public Health at UNC-Chapel Hill.

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For more information about the Community Leadership Summit, contact Francis Shapiro at (919) 562-7015.

State of the Town Address Aired on Community Channel 10

For the first time in the Town's history, our mayor has videotaped the "State of the Town" address for re-broadcast on <u>Community Channel 10</u>. Mayor Vivian Jones's seven-minute presentation highlights several of the <u>Town's accomplishments during 2005</u>. She also addresses several current issues, including the Renaissance Plan and construction of the new Town Hall. Additionally, she provides an update on July's water and sewer system merger with the City of Raleigh and notes a few of the Town's initiatives for 2006.

The State of the Town address will be broadcast on Community Channel 10 throughout March on Mondays and Thursdays. For the complete story about the mayor's State of the Town address, I encourage you to read Johnny Whitfield's <u>article</u> in the February 23 edition of *The Wake Weekly*.

US 1 Corridor Study Public Meeting

Two reasons for improving the US 1 corridor are often cited: 1) to meet growing travel demand; and 2) improve safety. Current travel demand on the route meets or exceeds its capacity for the section of US 1 south of US 1A (South Main Street) in Wake County. The purpose of the US 1 Corridor Study is to develop an integrated transportation plan that provides for reasonable mobility along the US 1 Corridor while maintaining a high quality environment for the surrounding communities by providing for well-planned and sustainable growth along this corridor.



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Road Construction Updates

South Main Street

South Main Street has been widened to five lanes (two in each direction with a center turn lane) under a Town-supervised contract from Capital Boulevard to Ligon Mill Road. In spring 2006 NCDOT will award a contract to resurface or overlay South Main Street from Capital to NC98 Bypass – minus the section from Rogers Road to Forbes Road. The Town Board will award a separate contract to widen the latter section to five lanes and then overlay that section. Upon completion of the overlay, NCDOT or the Town, as appropriate dependant upon section,



will add thermoplastic pavement lane markings and lane "cats eyes" to further distinguish lanes.

Stadium Drive Closing - April 1 through August 28

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Creek. Consequently, Stadium Drive will be closed from April 1 to August 28 in the vicinity of the bridge to facilitate the demolition of the existing bridge and the construction of a new three lane bridge with sidewalk. Traffic will be detoured per NCDOT guidelines.

Pedestrian Plan Workshop Scheduled

The Town is developing a comprehensive Pedestrian Plan. A public workshop has been scheduled for Thursday, March 16 from 4 – 7 p.m. at Town Hall in order to gather public input concerning this important process. For more information, contact Ann Ayers at (919) 570-7999.

Arbor Day Poster Contest Winners Announced

Each year the Wake Forest <u>Urban Forestry Board</u> sponsors an art contest in conjunction with the Town's Arbor Day celebration, whereby participants design a poster that reflects their knowledge of a theme presented by the National Arbor Day Foundation. This year over 60 Wake Forest citizens between the ages of five and 12 submitted posters related to the theme: "Trees are Terrific...in All Shapes and Sizes."

Urban Forestry Board members judged the submissions at their February meeting. Lisa Potts, Town planner and board liaison, recently announced the winners.

Liam Finn, a second grader at Wake Forest Elementary, won the top prize for "Best Picture," and Brett Zeck, a third grader at Wake Forest Elementary, won the award for "Most Creative." Elise King, a second grader at Wake Forest Elementary, was voted the "Honorable Mention" winner.

The Urban Forestry Board will present award certificates and \$50 U.S. savings bonds to the winners during the March 16 Arbor Day celebration. As a bonus for Finn, his drawing will appear as the illustration on this year Arbor Day T-shirt.

For more information about the Arbor Day Poster Contest, contact Lisa Potts at (919) 554-6143.